

***Alcoholics Anonymous* for Sponsors:
The Text and a Line-by-Line Glossary to Page 181**
From the Editors, Notes
Prepublication Manuscript
(Also known as the “Original Manuscript”)

A short time before the book was published, four hundred copies of the typed prepublication manuscript were given out to members, friends, doctors, clergy and other people who might be concerned with the problem of alcoholism. These copies were made using a mimeograph process. Sometimes in the A.A. literature this process is referred to by the brand name “multilith.” (For more information about the prepublication manuscript, which is also called the “original” manuscript, see the books *Alcoholics Anonymous Comes of Age*, page 165 and *Pass It On*, page 200.).

At the time the book *Alcoholics Anonymous* was first published, the fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous was very new. The reaction of the reading public was critical for the future of A.A. The early A.A. members had to consider not only how the book would be received by newcomers, but also by nonalcoholics as well.

Even a quick comparison shows that the word “you” appears much more often in the manuscript than in today’s book. Maybe there are some alcoholics who prefer to be told what to do. We think they are in the minority. We believe that most of us are more receptive when experienced people tell us what they did to recover. Most of the time, this is the approach used in today’s text.

There were only about one hundred members when the first printing of the first edition was published in 1939. Today, A.A. is so well established that we tend to forget how important the good will of nonalcoholics has been to the growth of A.A.

Nonalcoholics, such as spouses, employers, doctors and clergy, are often the first to recognize that someone has a problem with alcohol. Sometimes they see that there’s trouble before the alcoholic does. Over the years, many, many alcoholics have been referred to A.A. by these men and women. Some of the manuscript’s text is rather critical of nonalcoholics. Most of these passages were modified before the book went to the printer.

If the prepublication manuscript had not been changed, our basic text would have been very different.

For more information about this and other topics related to the book *Alcoholics Anonymous*, you can contact us at: book164@proton.me

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